

dustry and labor are the elements of our success. If we are to effect any thing for the good of our country, or the welfare of our fellow-men, it must be through the agency of these great sources of human good.

It is not my purpose to attempt any thing like a practical essay upon the details of a proper method of cultivating the soil, or the other kindred pursuits that appertain to rural life. I think it would be unsuited to the occasion. We have assembled for the purpose of receiving instruction through the eye, rather than the ear. The fever of feeling is too intense, the pulse of excitement is too high, to tolerate any thing like a detailed routine of agricultural improvement, or farm husbandry. Every latitude, climate and soil have their own peculiar systems of detail; and in North Carolina, we have but too lately waked up to the importance of systematic agricultural improvement, to have any special established data, for the benefit of those who may desire practical information. For the present, we have to rely on those general principles, which time and experience have proven to be applicable to all soils and climates—adapting them to our peculiar condition, as best we may. From the results of that adaptation, it is our aim and object, to develope information for the benefit of those who may succeed us. Besides, I have too lately entered on my noviciate in this great and noble pursuit, to presume to give instruction to many whom I see around me, of whom I would fain aspire to be an humble follower. I am here to learn rather than to teach. And if I were to attempt any thing like practical information, I should have to resort to sources equally in reach of you all—to the recorded achievements and experience of the great pioneers of agriculture in other lands. This knowledge a few shillings will procure, where established facts and settled principles that have undergone the closest investigation, in the closet of the student, the crucible of the chemist and the experience of the practical farmer, are embodied in language, far more sim-